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NEED TO PREVENT ARMS RACE IN SPACE STRESSED

PM011439 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 28 Feb 84 First Edition p 4

[Yu. Sadov article: "One Against All. U.S. Plans for The Militarization of Space"]

[Text] International agreements partially limiting the use of space for military purpose were concluded in the sixties and seventies as a result of efforts by the USSR and a number of other countries. The Soviet Union considered and continues to consider that it is imperatively necessary to completely block the possibility of the militarization of space and to create a reliable barrier to plans to turn it into a source of mortal danger for mankind. The significance of space for the peaceful future of the planet's population is steadily growing, and outer space must remain forever peaceful and free from all kinds of weapons. Guided by this goal, back in 1981 the USSR submitted at the United Nations a proposal to conclude a treaty banning the siting of any kinds of weapons in outer space. The elaboration of this treaty is, however, blocked by Washington.

Meanwhile the urgency of preventing the militarization of space is growing. If an arms race in space is not prevented, mankind will run up against a new threat whose dimensions it is now difficult to even imagine.

The United States started preparing for the military use of space more than 20 years ago. In the sixties, for example, it carried out the development of the "Saint" maneuverable interceptor spacecraft. Two ground-based antisatellite systems were also deployed back then -- one in 1963, on Kwajalein Island, based on the "Nike-Zeus" antimissile, and the other in 1964, on Johnstone Island, using modified "Thor" missiles. The development of space weapons was given a new boost when the present U.S. Administration came to power. A presidential directive on policy in space research and the use of space was published in in July 1982 and openly gave priority to military purposes. The implementation of these instructions has already started. The sum of $9 billion has been appropriated for the development of military space programs in the current fiscal year.

According to these programs, the development of the ASAT aviation antisatellite complex based on the F-15 fighter is currently being accelerated. The U.S. Air Force has announced the first launch of an interceptor missile into space from an aircraft. It is planned to set up two squadrons of F-15 aircraft equipped with ASAT missiles and to deploy them at Langley AFB (Virginia) and McCord AFB (Washington).

It should be noted here that the space shuttle program is also being switched to military purposes. Priority in shuttle launches is given to the Department of Defense, which is planning to put into orbit satellites for military purposes, orbital command centers, and new types of space weapons. A center from which military shuttles will be launched is being set up at Vandenburg AFB (California).

On 6 January the U.S. President signed Directive 119, which orders the start of implementation of an expanded program of scientific research into the development of new weapons systems in space capable of "repulsing an enemy nuclear attack." This is confirmation of the previously announced decision to start the development of a new generation of antimissile complexes intended specifically for siting in space. It is reported that they will be based on directional energy weapons (laser or particle beam). They want to aim these weapons not only at missiles but also at targets in space and at airborne and ground targets. By 1988 the funds for the development of laser systems for use in and from space are to increase more than 12 times. All in all, Washington intends to allot $27 billion for the development of a "defense system" in space over the next 5 years, increasing to $95 billion by the year 2000.

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WARSAW PACT STATES CALL FOR TALKS WITH NATO

IZVESTIYA Carries Proposal

PM051722 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 6 Mar 84 Morning Edition pp 1, 4

[Unattributed report: "On the Question of Not Increasing and of Reducing the Military Expenditure of the Warsaw Pact and NATO States"]

[Text] By agreement among the Warsaw Pact states, on 5 March 1984 in Bucharest at the Romanian Foreign Ministry the Embassies of Britain, Belgium, the FRG, Greece, Denmark, Spain, Italy, Canada, the Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, the United States, Turkey, and France were presented with a memorandum with an appended "Proposal of the Warsaw Pact States to the NATO States Regarding Talks on Not Increasing and on Reducing Military Expenditure." Via the Romanian Embassies in London and Brussels respectively these documents have also been conveyed to the Embassies of Iceland and Luxembourg.

The Warsaw Pact states have proposed to the NATO states that they hold preliminary consultations with the participation of all countries belonging to both alliances in order to agree on initiating talks on the mutual nonincrease of military expenditure and on its subsequent reduction.

Under conditions of mounting international tension, the adoption of measures for not increasing and for reducing military expenditure becomes particularly important. The reduction of military expenditure would effectively help to halt the arms race and to turn to disarmament, and the funds thus released could be used for the needs of socio-economic development, including those of the developing countries.

All states, and primarily states with a large military potential, should take part in efforts not to increase and to reduce military expenditure. At the same time special importance would attach to the implementation of such measures by the Warsaw Pact and NATO states, considering the high proportion of military expenditure which they account for.

The Warsaw Pact states express the hope that the NATO countries' governments will treat very attentively this proposal aimed at strengthening international peace and security and improving the political climate in Europe and throughout the world.

Warsaw Pact States' Proposal to NATO States Regarding Talks on Not Increasing and on Reducing Military Expenditure

The People's Republic of Bulgaria, the Hungarian People's Republic, the GDR, the Polish People's Republic, the Socialist Republic of Romania, the USSR, and the CSSR are profoundly concerned at the continuation of the arms race at an increasingly rapid pace, which has extremely dangerous consequences for international peace and security. The Warsaw Pact states advocate curbing this race and making the transition to disarmament, especially nuclear disarmament. They advocate reaching agreements leading to the effective reduction of armed forces and armaments, given strict observance of the principle of equality and identical security, and ensuring the equilibrium of forces at the lowest level.

The arms race is fed by rapidly growing military expenditure, which is becoming an increasingly heavy burden for peoples, irrespective of various countries' economic development levels, and is slowing down economic and social progress. The reduction of military expenditure -- primarily by all states with nuclear weapons, and by other militarily important states -- would effectively help to halt the arms race and make the transition to disarmament, and the funds released could be used for the needs of socioeconomic development, including those of the developing countries.

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PROPOSAL 'REAL OPPORTUNITY' FOR NORMALIZATION

LD06123 Moscow TASS in English 1122 GMT 6 Mar 84

[Text] Moscow March 6 TASS -- TASS military news analyst Vladimir Bogachev writes:

The Soviet Union regards the prevention of nuclear war to be its main foreign policy objective. It proceeds from the premise that in this nuclear age the parity of military potentials of the Warsaw Treaty and NATO member countries, the USSR and the USA, which has shaped, is a guarantee of peace and security, and does everything in its power to reduce the present military confrontation to a less dangerous level.

On the other hand, the socialist countries stress that the plans of the present United States Administration aimed at ensuring superiority in such fields as strategic weapons, medium-range nuclear weapons in Europe, anti-ballistic missile defence, anti-submarine weapons and outer space anti-satellite weapons are fraught with a threat of a serious destabilisation of the military-political situation in the world. The ambition of the United States to ensure military superiority strongly undermines trust between countries, creates a real threat of a nuclear war breaking out as a result of an error, miscalculation and technical mishaps.

The countries of the socialist community do not seek military superiority, and even in taking the necessary security measures in answer to the build-up of the military potential of the NATO countries, see to it that these measures do not go beyond the framework of the parity which shaped. At the same time, the USSR and its allies will not allow military superiority for the USA and NATO.

In his speech at a meeting with electors in Moscow, Konstantin Chernenko, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, put forward a concrete programme of real actions to improve the international climate. The leader of the CPSU set forth, in particular, the principles which the Soviet Union made the basis of its policy and urged the other countries to follow similar norms.

Not to permit situations fraught with a nuclear conflict, give up the propaganda of nuclear war, make the commitment never to be the first to use nuclear weapons, not to use nuclear weapons against non-nuclear states, in whose territory such weapons are not deployed, whatever the circumstances, to prevent the proliferation of nuclear weapons in any form, work step by step, on the basis of the principle of equal security, for a reduction of nuclear weapons down to their total scrapping in all of their kinds and types -- this is, in a nutshell, the essence of the norms of behavior proposed by the Soviet Union, whose observance by all states would meet the vital interests of the peoples of the whole world.

If the USA and the other NATO countries showed readiness to accept these principles, this would contribute towards tangible progress, even to a breakthrough in international relations.

The Soviet Union has offered the Western countries mutually acceptable, fair decisions to the problems facing the world. This initiative is another important step of the Soviet Union on the way of a quest for the opportunities to better relations with the USA, which have been deadlocked through Washington's fault.

At the present time the Reagan administration has a real opportunity to confirm by its concrete actions its statements on striving for peace, for normalising relations with the Soviet Union.

Now it is for Washington to have its say.

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U.S. NUCLEAR POLICY HOLDS W. EUROPE 'HOSTAGE'

LD201547 Moscow TASS in English 1507 GMT 20 Mar 84

["Dangerous Course" -- TASS headline]

[Text] Moscow March 20 TASS -- TASS political news analyst Yuriy Kornilov writes:

Let us have a look at two facts reported by news agencies. The first is an interview given by President Reagan to FRANCE PRESSE, in which he reiterated "the resolve to preserve the U.S. contribution to European defences" and made it clear that the United States would continue speedily to deploy U.S. first-strike weapons in Western Europe. Here is another fact bearing on the same problem: According to public opinion polls, almost 75 percent of the West Germans, about 80 percent of the Italians and more than 60 percent of the Dutch are against the deployment of U.S. "Pershings" and cruise missiles in Western Europe.

A mere comparison of these facts supplies fresh proof that however hard Washington and NATO try to make the turning of Western Europe into a launching site for new U.S. missiles seem an action prompted by the "security interests" of the NATO allies, a large and ever growing portion of the population of those countries are becoming ever more aware that in reality West European security, far from being strengthened, is subverted as the West Europeans become by the will of the Washington administration hostages to a policy which is dangerous and hostile to them.

This is really so. It is common knowledge that Washington has made militarist plans for a "limited" nuclear war although it is perfectly obvious that nuclear holocaust, wherever it might spring from, will not spare the United States. It is likewise known that it is Washington strategists who are making plans for the first "disarming" nuclear strike, which can only be viewed as an attempt to tailor Hitler's delirious "blitzkrieg" idea to the realities of the nuclear age. Acting in accordance with these adventuristic doctrines, the United States is making obviously futile attempts to tip in its favour the military and strategic parity in Europe and in the world at large and, moreover, pushing Europe and the world into another, very dangerous round of the nuclear arms race. As a result, the security of the West European countries is shrinking while the risk of retaliation is growing immeasurably, particularly for West Germany which is becoming the focal point of the U.S. nuclear-missile staging area in Western Europe.

During the recent period Washington's European policy has been ever more obviously leaning to the tactic according to which Reagan and his entourage, reiterating their intention to continue to deploy first-strike weapons in Western Europe, at the same time are trying hard to present themselves as "peace-makers" bending over backwards "to resume the dialogue" on nuclear weapons in Europe. But who is this propaganda trick intended for? The Geneva talks, as everyone knows, were meant to bring about reductions in nuclear arms on the continent while Washington, having gone ahead with its missile deployments, began to build up rather than reduce such weapons. Isn't it clear that to continue the dialogue in this situation would mean just to cover up and camouflage the dangerous actions of Washington and the NATO militarists?

The Soviet Union's proposals on lessening nuclear-missile confrontation in Europe are well known, and they are still standing in their entirety. The USA and NATO only need to display readiness to return to the situation which existed before the beginning of the U.S. missile deployments. As for Washington, if we brush aside its pseudo-peaceable rhetoric, it pursues a diametrically opposite line. A very dangerous course indeed!

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PRAVDA DENIES CONTACTS WITH U.S. ON ARMS

PM291733 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 30 Mar 84 First Edition p 5

[Editorial article: "Washington Misinformers"]

[Text] Having gone ahead with the deployment of new U.S. missiles in Western Europe late last year, thus thwarting the Geneva talks on the limitation of medium-range nuclear weapons, Washington at first tried to create the impression that nothing much had happened. One self-assured statement followed another to the effect that the Soviet Union would return to the negotiating table tomorrow if not today.

Gentlemen in Washington and certain other NATO capitals would like very much to take cover behind a front of talks as they were developing in Western Europe a new nuclear-missile force aimed against the USSR and its allies.

But that trick flopped. Hypocritical appeals for the resumption of the talks went amiss as the Soviet leadership firmly stated that the USSR was not going to participate in the talks the purpose of which was to deceive the peoples.

It was stated likewise definitively at the same time that if the USA and other NATO countries displayed readiness to return to the situation which had existed before the deployment of the U.S. medium-range missiles in Europe, the Soviet Union would also be ready to do so. In other words, the Geneva talks could be resumed only in that case.

Having come against that principled stand of the Soviet Union, Washington realized that it had ridiculed itself with its predictions of the early resumption of the Geneva talks.

However, it did not make a conclusion in favor of doing business honestly. This is not the habit of the incumbent U.S. Administration. When one deceitful ploy failed, it decided to resort to another one -- more sophisticated, as they in Washington thought.

All sorts of rumours began to float from Washington at some point that although there were no official talks on the limitation of nuclear armaments, there was no reason for worry either as those matters presumably continued to be "discussed" between Washington and Moscow.

They are whispering this tale into the ears of their West European allies. They are thickening fog over trips of various U.S. figures to Moscow non-governmental channels. They even speculate on these themes over regular meetings of the Soviet and U.S. ambassadors to Washington and Moscow, respectively, with officials of the host countries.

Spokesmen for the U.S. Department of State confirm during their meetings with journalists that U.S. missiles continue to be deployed in Western Europe but at the same time add meaningfully that Soviet-U.S. dialogue on these questions "also continues".

In the hope of reducing the pitch of their struggle against the deployment of U.S. Pershing-2 and cruise missiles in Europe.

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